(c) the requirement of total additional capital assessed for the target regarding the expansion of forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The present inadequacy of budget allocation for tree planting has been cited as one of the constrained in achieving the target of one-third Forest and Tree Cover by the year 2012. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has mooted several initiatives to achieve the target on time which include provision of assistance for High-tech nurseries and Satellite nurseries for production of Quality Planting Material, augmentation of National Afforestation Programme (NAP) with additional component of assistance to Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs), effecting step-up in budgetary allocation, securing increased people's participation, and emphasizing augmentation of staff strength at the cutting edge level in States. Besides, promotion of tree planting on private land, including farm lands, is being ensured by advising States to rationalize the regulations relating to felling and transit of trees grown on private lands. The States have also been advised to constitute inter-departmental committee chaired by Chief Secretary to involve all land-owing Departments in tree planting.

(c) As per the National Forestry Action Plan (NFAP) of India 1999, the total requirement for the 20 year period has been estimated to be Rs. 1,33,902.78 crores to achieve the requisite target of improvement and expansion of Forest and Tree Cover.

Laying of roads using plastic waste

3720. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an experiment has been made to lay road using plastic waste;

(b) whether his Ministry has given green signal for laying of roads using plastic waste;

(c) if so, whether his Ministry has taken up with Ministry of Road Transport for laying of roads using plastic waste; and

(d) if so, the reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Demonstration on using plastic waste for road construction mixed with bitumen has been carried out and a few stretches of roads has been built using waste plastics in some States like Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra. It has been observed that Polymer waste blended Bitumen increases the strength and reduces bleeding of roads.

(b) to (d) The Ministry of Environment & Forests has not recieved any request to recommend for laying of roads using plastic waste and has not taken up the issue with the Ministry of Road Transport.

Development of forest villages in Uttar Pradesh

3721. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals from the State Governments particularly, Uttar Pradesh for the development of forest villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the funds provided to the State Government during the last one year, particularly to Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) the number of villages that have been developed/under development, so far, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Proposals have been received from the State Governments of Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Mizoram, Jharkhand and Orissa for integrated development of forest villages. No proposal has been received from the State of Uttar Pradesh in this regad.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Tribal Affairs has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 268.15 crores to the eight State Governments during 2005-06 for development of 1, 832 forest villages. Out of this an amount of Rs 191.75 crores has been released till 31.03.2006. The details of the number of forest villages and the funds released are given in Statement.